

Introduction to Comments and Responses

Role of Public Comments

Public involvement is a major component of SEPA. Both the Draft and Final EIS for the North Bend Gravel Operation were shaped by public comments. A public scoping process played a key role in defining the issues addressed in the DEIS. Following publication of the DEIS on June 15, 2000, King County invited public comments, which were accepted for 60 days. In the subsequent review and comment period, potential deficiencies and areas requiring clarification were identified by the public.

The comment letters on the DEIS are comprehensive. They cover most issues addressed in the DEIS, as well as some that were not. Many comment letters were well researched. Some were prepared by professional consultants. Many letters raise important issues and concerns. Due to the thoroughness of public comments, the FEIS more fully addresses the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives than the DEIS.

The Comments and Responses presented in this volume (Volumes IV) document King County's consideration of and response to public comments on the DEIS. Volumes V and VI contain copies of the original comment documents. These volumes represent King County's intention to be fully responsive to the comments submitted by the North Bend community and other interested parties.

How Comments and Responses Were Compiled

King County received 142 comment documents with approximately 3,500 individual comments. Comment documents were copied, and reviewers marked the individual comments for the appropriate category—for example, transportation, or noise, or recreation, and sent them to the appropriate technical experts who had worked on the DEIS. The technical staff developed responses to the comments, determined whether additional analysis was needed and whether the response should result in a change to the FEIS.

All comment documents were scanned and inserted into a computer database. Handwritten comments were typed directly into the database. The scanning and typing introduced some typographical and omission errors. For example, an "H" showed up as a "7," punctuation was missing, or the last few words of a sentence were cut off. An effort was made to correct all of these errors, but some may remain. Some of the typographical errors were in the original comment documents. No effort was made to correct apparent errors in the comment documents. Please note, the technical reviewers worked from copies of the comment documents in developing their responses. Review of complete comment documents was required in some cases to put the comment in the proper context.

Individual comments were then categorized into the appropriate DEIS section, matched with the responses and reviewed by the EIS team and King County for accuracy and adequacy.

How Comments and Responses are Organized

The comment documents were organized into groups, which include State agencies, local agencies and municipalities, organizations, businesses, consultants and individuals. Each document was assigned a document number (see Table 1). Each comment was then assigned a unique comment number, for example, 001-005. The first part of the number, 001, is the document number (Table 1). The second part of the number, 005, is the number assigned to the particular comment. Some comment letters are short and include only one or two individual comments. Some letters are long and included hundreds of individual comments. In some cases, additional materials were attached to the comment documents. In these cases, the attachments were given an alphanumeric designation that corresponded to the document number (i.e., 022A, and 022B for attachments to document 022). Comments that begin with the number 127 are comments transcribed from the public hearing King County conducted on July 11, 2000. A comment index is included at the end of this volume, which identifies the page number where each comment is listed.

Public comments are sorted and addressed according to the section headings in the DEIS. For example, if a comment refers to the text describing existing site geology (Section 3.1.1.4 in the DEIS), it is listed under Section 3.1.1.4. Sections in the DEIS for which no comments were submitted are noted as such. Comments on DEIS appendices (technical reports) are included at the end of the comments on the DEIS chapters. Some comments do not refer to specific sections of the DEIS and are therefore included in the General Comments section which follows the Comments and Responses on the Technical Reports. The General Comments section includes many of the comments expressing support or recommending denial of the proposal.

Multiple comments within the same section and referring to similar issues are grouped together and addressed with a single response. Comments that raise different issues are responded to individually, in order to provide a more complete response. In some cases, comments on the same general issue (the elk herd, for example) may focus on specific items such as existing conditions or environmental impacts, and are addressed in both of those sections. Each comment or series of comments is followed by a response. There is no significance to the order of the comments within each of the subsections.

SEPA Requirements for Responses to Comments

As defined by SEPA (WAC 197-11-560), possible responses to comments on the DEIS include:

- (a) Modify alternatives including the proposed action
- (b) Develop and evaluate alternatives not previously given detailed consideration by the agency
- (c) Supplement, improve or modify the analysis
- (d) Make factual corrections
- (e) Explain why the comments do not warrant further agency response, citing the sources, authorities, or reasons that support the agency's response and, if appropriate indicate those circumstances that would trigger agency reappraisal or further response.

None of the comments resulted in modifying the alternatives. However, as discussed in Chapters 1 and 2 of the FEIS, Cadman, Inc. modified its proposal to eliminate the freshwater storage pond from the project following publication of the DEIS. One comment from the Washington State Department of Transportation suggests a modification to Alternative 2 that includes running the conveyor between the Upper and Lower Sites in reverse. The potential environmental impacts of this alternative, compared to the other alternatives, is evaluated in the response to this comment. The responses to most of the comments fall into the categories of supplemental analysis, factual corrections, or comments that do not warrant further response. Some comments do not require changes to the EIS or an explanation, and are followed by a simple response such as “Comment acknowledged” or “Comment noted.”

Comment Documents

The full comment letters can be found in Volumes V and VI. Volume V includes letters submitted by state and local agencies, private organizations and businesses. Volume VI includes letters from consultants and individuals, including e-mails and handwritten comment forms and comments provided during the public hearing.

Table 1
List of Comment Documents on the
Draft Environmental Impact for the North Bend Gravel Operation

	Agency/Association	Date	Document Number	Number of comments
State	Washington State Department of Ecology	8/10/00	001	20
	Washington State Department of Natural Resources	8/15/00	002	19
	Washington State Department of Transportation	8/3/00	003	1
	Washington State Department of Transportation	10/5/00	145	12
	Washington State Department of Parks and Recreation	7/31/00	004	10
	Washington State Patrol	8/10/00	005	14
Local	City of Issaquah	7/27/00	006	4
	City of Issaquah	7/27/00	007	4
	City North Bend	8/10/00	008	7
	City of Sammamish	7/6/00	009	3
	Seattle Public Utilities	7/27/00	010	2
	Snoqualmie Valley School District #410	8/10/00	011	16
Organizations	Cascade Gateway Foundation	8/15/00	012	189
	Middle Fork Well Association	8/10/00	013	7
	Mountains to Sound Greenway	7/6/00	014	11
	Sallal Water Association	8/15/00	015	6
	Sierra Club-Cascade Chapter	8/15/00	016	18
	Vallley Camp	8/15/00	017	7
	WoodRiver Community (126 people represented)	8/1/00	018	10
	WoodRiver Community	8/14/00	019	696
	WRAGRA-WoodRiver Area Grouse Ridge Association	8/14/00	020	921
Businesses	Bolles Construction, Inc.	7/20/00	025	1
	Bricklin & Gendler, LLP	8/15/00	021	2
	Bricklin & Gendler - (Edgewick Inn)	8/15/00	022A	7
	Bricklin & Gendler - (KJS Associates)	8/15/00	022B	8
	Bricklin & Gendler - (Greenbusch Group)	8/15/00	022C	6
	Bricklin & Gendler - (Herrera)	8/15/00	022D	12
	Cadman Corporation	8/10/00	026	33
	Cascade Utilities, Inc.	7/18/00	027	6
	Continental Dirt Contractors, Inc.	7/5/00	028	3
	Conner Homes Co.	7/6/00	029	5
	Edgewick Inn	7/11/00	128	5
	Halvorson	7/27/00	030	1
	Leavitt Construction Co., Inc.	7/1/00	031	1
	Olympian Precast Inc.	7/21/00	032	6
	Santana Trucking & Excavating, Inc.	7/18/00	033	2
	Stuth Company Inc.	7/25/00	034	3
	Universal Land Construction Co.	7/25/00	035	1
	Washington Aggregates and Concrete Association	8/12/00	143	5
	Weyerhaeuser Company	7/14/00	036A	4
	Weyerhaeuser Company	7/14/00	036B	8
Consultants	American Engineering Corporation	8/14/00	141	4
	Kent Berryman & Associates	8/12/00	023	54
	Leonard Charles & Associates	8/11/00	024A	145
	Attachment to #024	8/11/00	024B	31
Individuals	Alexander, George & Jennifer	8/1/00	037	6
	Alexander, George & Jennifer	8/5/00	038	2
	Allard, Randy	7/13/00	039	8
	Allard, Randy & Polly	7/11/00	040	1
	Andring, Karen	8/12/00	041	10
	Backus, Herschel	7/11/00	129	2
	Bechtold, Lori	7/27/00	042	1

Table 1 (Continued)
List of Comment Documents on the
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	Agency/Association	Date	Document Number	Number of comments
Individuals (Continued)	Bechtold, Lori	8/2/00	043	3
	Blauvelt, Robert	8/3/00	044	5
	Boynton, Robin	8/8/00	045	77
	Brown, C.R.	8/2/00	046	1
	Butler, Steve	8/13/00	047	2
	Buzzell, Donald & Rea	8/7/00	048	9
	Carlson, Connie	8/12/00	049	1
	Carlson, Steve	8/13/00	050	1
	Carlson, Steve	8/13/00	051	1
	Carlson, Steve & Connie	8/13/00	052	1
	Catanzaro, Chris	8/15/00	053	3
	Check, Joel & Laurel	8/13/00	054	11
	Chochrek, Jamison & Carin	8/11/00	055	19
	Chochrek, Jamison & Carin	6/14/00	056	4
	Cline, Jennifer	8/11/00	057	3
	Cline, M.M.	8/11/00	118	3
	Crecca, Joe	7/29/00	058	3
	Crowley & Smart, Robert & Laura	7/12/00	059	1
	Donnelly, Sean	7/14/00	060	2
	Donnelly, Sean	7/14/00	061	1
	Donnelly, Sean	7/14/00	062	1
	Donnelly, Sean	7/14/00	063	1
	Eastburn, Michelle & Jacki Taylor	7/29/00	064	13
	Elliott, Gordon	8/2/00	065	6
	Finch, Earl C.	7/11/00	066	2
	Finch, Lupe	7/11/00	130	3
	Forsen, John	NA	142	25
	Garr, Allison	7/11/00	131	1
	Gilbert, Howard	8/4/00	067	1
	Goldberg, Steve & Joyce	7/29/00	068	3
	Golic Family	8/14/00	069	8
	Gower, Thelma Ruth	8/8/00	070	9
	Greathouse Neel, Donna	7/11/00	132	2
	Hacherl, Cindy	7/11/00	071	11
	Hacherl, Don	7/11/00	072	1
	Hahn, Daniel & Renee	8/14/00	073	348
	Hall, Gloria	8/8/00	074	5
	Hall, Gloria	8/8/00	075	4
	Hall, Ken	8/1/00	076	1
	Hall, Ken	8/3/00	078	1
	Hall, Ken	8/4/00	079	1
	Hall, Ken	8/4/00	080	1
	Hall, Ken	8/5/00	081	2
	Hall, Ken	8/5/00	082	1
	Hall, Ken	8/5/00	083	1
	Hall, Ken	8/7/00	084	3
	Hall, Ken	8/2/00	077	1
	Hamilton, Scott	8/2/00	085	6
	Hart, Gwyn	7/14/00	086	3
	Hays, Elaina	7/11/00	087	1
	Irons, Di	8/15/00	088	4
	Johnson, Bob	8/11/00	089	3
	Kimball, Gregg	8/14/00	090	15
	Louviere, Bryan	8/4/00	091	1
	Louviere, Bryan	8/4/00	092	1
	Louviere, Bryan	8/4/00	093	1

Table 1 (Continued)
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Draft Environmental Impact for the North Bend Gravel Operation

	Agency/Association	Date	Document Number	Number of comments
Individuals (Continued)	Louviere, Bryan	8/4/00	094	1
	Louviere, Bryan	8/4/00	095	1
	Louviere, Bryan	8/4/00	096	1
	Maller, Carol	NA	097	15
	Masbaum, Judy	7/11/00	098	6
	Mayes, Jared & Ann	8/14/00	099	13
	McIntyre, W. Butch	8/14/00	103	1
	McSwain, Patricia	NA	104	5
	Mills, Alan & Dorothy	7/11/00	100	1
	Missimer, Connie	8/13/00	101	2
	Mondrow, Darryl & Barbara	7/11/00	102	1
	Nelson, Christy	7/11/00	105	10
	Nelson, L.M.	7/11/00	106	3
	Nelson, Paula	7/11/00	107	6
	Nystrom, Donna	7/11/00	133	4
	Nystrom, Erik	7/11/00	134	3
	Nystrom, Jenny	7/11/00	135	8
	Nystrom, Patrik	7/11/00	136	11
	Ostrem, Mike	7/26/00	108	5
	Person, Melinda	8/14/00	109	1
	Rapin, Andrew	8/2/00	110	5
	Roalkvam, Joel	9/03/00	144	1
	Roberts, Mary	7/29/00	111	1
	Roberts, Mary	NA	112	2
	Roberts, Steve	8/6/00	113	6
	Royce, S.P.	8/11/00	114	1
	Sailer, Janet	8/10/00	115	68
	Smith, Brad	7/21/00	116	1
	Smith, Denise	6/15/00	117	4
	Stokes, Jack	7/20/00	119	6
	Surdyk, Leon	8/15/00	120	2
	Thomas, Agnes	7/11/00	137	2
	Touchette, Barbara	7/11/00	121	1
	Velebir, Andy	NA	122	5
	Warlick, Karen	7/11/00	138	6
	Watts, Rochelle	7/11/00	139	7
	Whitescarver, Steve	7/21/00	123	1
	Wie, Charles	8/8/00	124	4
	Wilbert, William	7/6/00	125	7
	Williamson, Philip	7/14/00	126	9
	Wilson, Valerie & James	7/11/00	140	6
Hearing Transcript	Various	7/11/00	127	175

Notes: NA = Not available